

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: CRAGUN et al.

Application: METHOD AND MEETING SCHEDULER FOR AUTOMATED MEETING SCHEDULING USING DELEGATES, REPRESENTATIVES, QUORUMS AND TEAMS

Serial No.

Filing date: Herewith

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Case: ROC920010190US1

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Feb. 6, 2002

Signature

Joan Pennington

Typed/printed name of person signing

535 North Michigan Avenue
Unit 1804
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 13, line 12 to change "setting" to ---settings-- as follows:

attending is good, while attendees attending is better. Then the sequential operations return to decision block 316 to continue with a next required attendee. When the attendee is not available, then for each qualified delegate as indicated in a decision block 322 checking whether the delegate available is performed as indicated in a decision block 324. A qualified delegate is one who is approved for both the topic of the meeting and the authority required. When the delegate is not available, then the sequential operations return to decision block 322 to process another qualified delegate. When the delegate is available, then checking whether the attendee requires consultation from the delegate is performed as indicated in a decision block 326. The attendee specifies in his delegate profile (FIG. 12) whether he should be consulted, and the meeting [setting] settings in FIGS. 8 and 9 indicate the required authority of the attendee or his delegate.

At page 13, line 32 to change "or delegate" to --or attendee-- as follows:

Referring now to FIGS. 5A and 5B, there are shown exemplary steps for the process response routine starting at a block 500. Checking for a decline or decommit from required attendee, delegate, or [delegate] attendee disapproval of a selected delegate is performed as indicated in a decision block 502. If true, then the calendar of the declining or decommitting attendee or delegate is unblocked as indicated in a block 503, then checking for an available delegate that has not already been tried is performed as

A copy of corrected pages 10 and 13 on A4 paper is provided at the end of this Preliminary Amendment.

Attached is a copy of original drawing sheet 8 including FIG. 5A, having the corrected label for block 516 shown corrected in red ink to change "delegate" to --all delegates--. A LETTER TO OFFICIAL DRAFTSPERSON with a corrected formal

drawing sheet 8 is enclosed herewith. The Examiner's approval of substitution of the corrected formal drawing sheet 8 for originally filed sheet 8 is requested.

If the Examiner upon considering this amendment should find that a further telephone interview would be helpful in expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Joan Pennington

Reg. No. 30,885

Telephone: 312/670-0796

attending is good, while attendees attending is better. Then the sequential operations return to decision block 316 to continue with a next required attendee. When the attendee is not available, then for each qualified delegate as indicated in a decision block 322 checking whether the delegate 5 available is performed as indicated in a decision block 324. A qualified delegate is one who is approved for both the topic of the meeting and the authority required. When the delegate is not available, then the sequential operations return to decision block 322 to process another qualified delegate. When the delegate is available, then checking whether the 10 attendee requires consultation from the delegate is performed as indicated in a decision block 326. The attendee specifies in his delegate profile (FIG. 12) whether he should be consulted, and the meeting settings in FIGS. 8 and 9 indicate the required authority of the attendee or his delegate. When consultation from the delegate is required, then checking whether the 15 attendee is available for consult is performed as indicated in a block 328. When the attendee is available for consult, then the attendee to be consulted is noted in the solution as indicated in a block 330. After the attendee to be consulted is marked in the solution or after identifying that consultation is not required, the selection score is increased by the delegate 20 value less a specific delegate cost as indicated in a block 332. A delegate cost as shown in FIGS. 11 and 12 is a defaulted but attendee changeable penalty that is associated with certain delegates that would influence their selection to be less likely. Designated as a loss to whatever delegate value is added in block 332, the delegate cost reduces the worth of a solution 25 involving using that delegate on that topic or authority. It should be understood that the delegate cost could instead be implemented as an added bonus to indicate a preferred outcome without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Then the delegate for attendee is noted in the solution as indicated in a block 334. Then the sequential operations return to decision block 316 to continue with a next required 30 attendee. After each required attendee is identified at decision block 316, then the sequential operations continue following entry A in FIG. 3B. Otherwise when determined that the delegate is not available at decision block 324 or that the attendee is not available for consult at decision block 328 and no more qualified delegates are identified at decision block 322, 35 then the selection score is set to unusable as indicated in a block 336. Then the sequential steps return as indicated in a block 338.

for that delegate is not automatic as specified in the delegate properties of FIG. 12, requests a confirming approval as indicated in a block 410. The request sent to the attendee also provides the optional response that no delegate is approved for this meeting. Otherwise if false or not a delegate, 5 then attendee calendar is blocked off as indicated in a block 412 and the attendee is invited as indicated in a block 414. The invitation to the attendee requests attendee confirmation. Then for each team as indicated in a decision block 416 checking whether to maximize representatives is performed as indicated in a decision block 418. If false or not to maximize 10 representatives, then a variable N is set to a minimum value as indicated in a block 420. If true or to maximize representatives, then the variable N is set to a maximum value as indicated in a block 422. Then for N team members as indicated in a decision block 424, the calendars are blocked off as indicated in a block 426 and the N team members invited as indicated in a block 428. Then the sequential operations return to decision block 416 to 15 continue with a next team. After each team is processed, then status is set to pending as indicated in a block 430. Waiting for a response is provided as indicated in a block 432. A process response routine is performed as indicated in a block 434. The process response routine is illustrated and 20 described with respect to FIGS. 5A and 5B. Then checking whether status equals pending is performed as indicated in a decision block 436. When true or status equals pending, then the sequential operations return to block 432 to wait for a response and continue. Otherwise when false or status does not equal pending, then the sequential operations return as indicated in 25 a block 438. A time out is provided from loop at block 432, in the case that not all responses are received in a timely fashion; in this event, control continues to a block 440 where status is set to not scheduled, after which control flows to block 436 where the test will fail and processing will return as indicated in a block 438.

30 Referring now to FIGS. 5A and 5B, there are shown exemplary steps for the process response routine starting at a block 500. Checking for a decline or decommit from required attendee, delegate, or attendee 35 disapproval of a selected delegate is performed as indicated in a decision block 502. If true, then the calendar of the declining or decommitting attendee or delegate is unblocked as indicated in a block 503, then checking for an available delegate that has not already been tried is performed as

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FIG. 5A

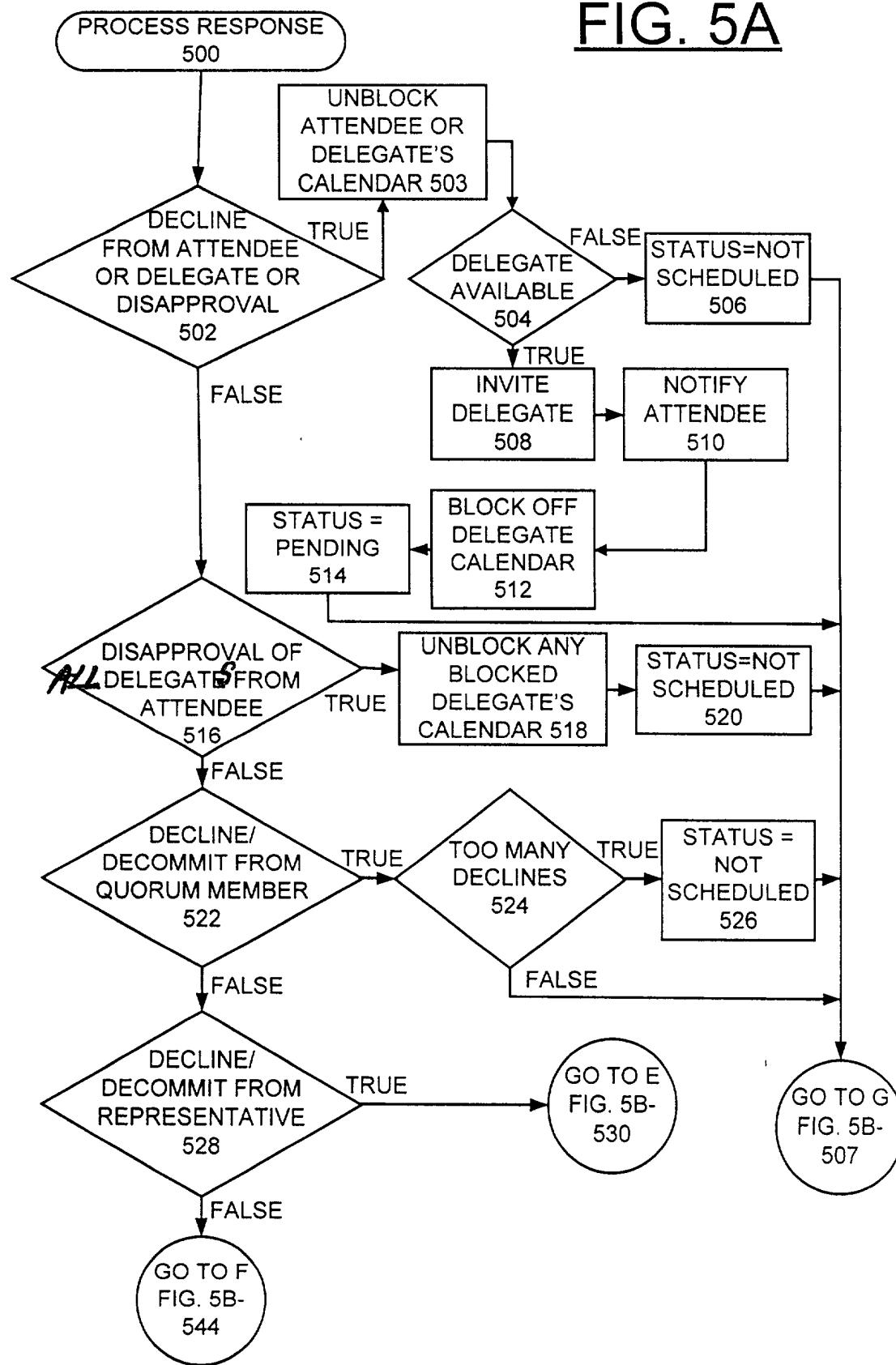


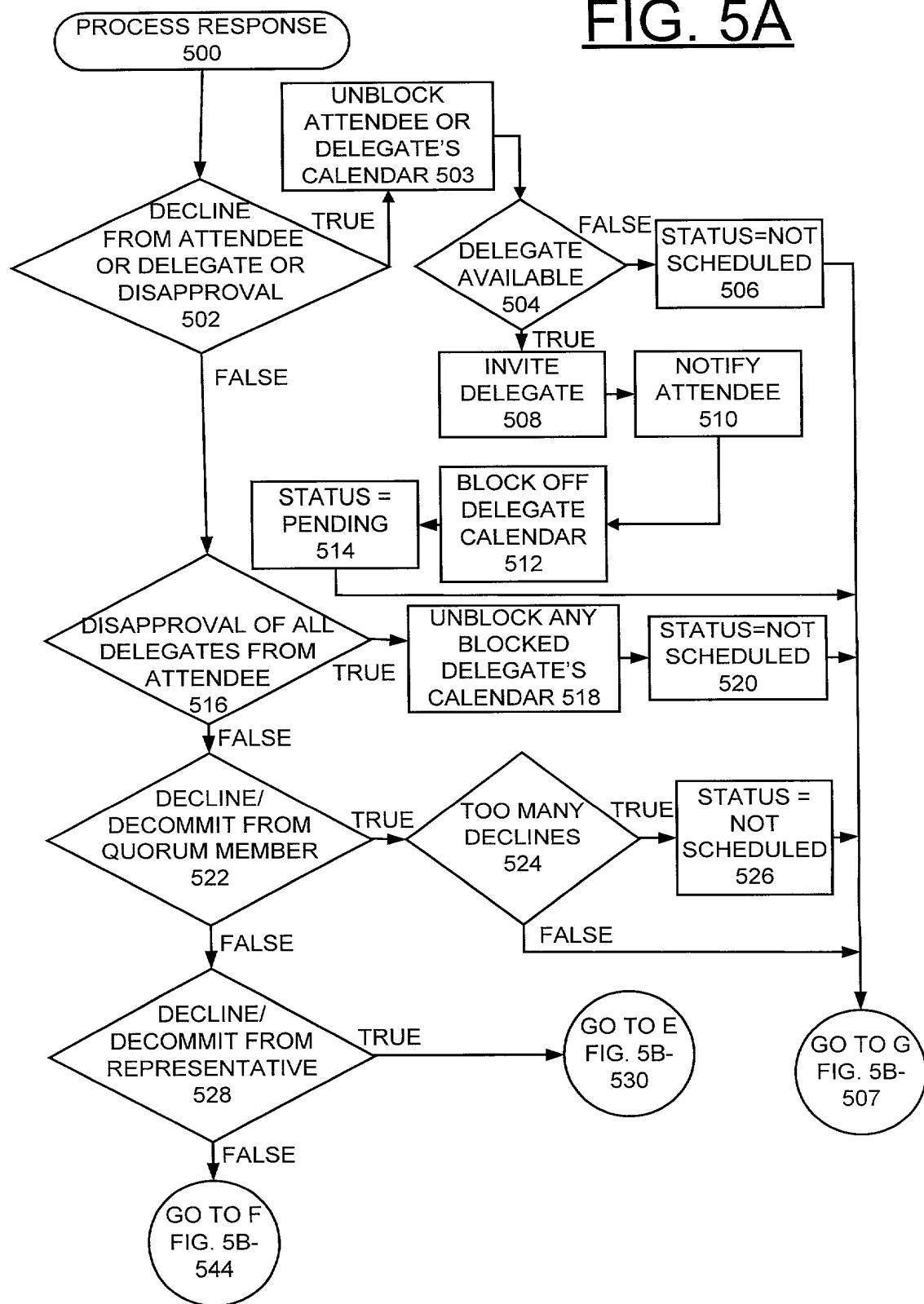
FIG. 5A

FIG. 5A